

April 7, 2003

Country Of Origin Labeling Program
Agriculture Marketing Service, USDA
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

Dear Sirs:

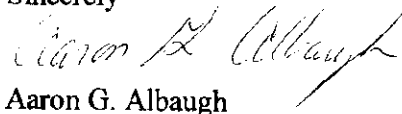
As a cow calf producer, from Northern California, I would like to ask that you please consider my comments regarding Country Of Origin Labeling.

"The United States should use its authority to require that all imported animals be permanently marked with their country of origin and that all existing documentation be kept with the animals until slaughter. The rules adopted by the USDA should establish that an animal not marked with foreign markings (ear tag, tattoo, and brand) is declared to be an animal born and raised in the United States and be eligible for the USA label. This rule would remove any burden and additional costs upon United States cattle producers who do not handle imported cattle, and it would keep the cost of COOL to a minimum for producers, processors, retailers, and ultimately the consumers".

I feel that these comments are very important to the implementation COOL. These few and small measures will place the costs and burden of proof upon those entities who import animals to the United States. The producers of legitimate USA raised beef should not be responsible for proving their beef was born and raised in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on this very important piece of legislation.

Sincerely



Aaron G. Albaugh